



Carlsbad Police Department
Crime Prevention Unit's

Vacation Security Checklist



An empty house can be a tempting target for an opportunist burglar. Use this checklist to help safeguard your home while you are away. The goal is to make it appear that there is someone home even when you are out.

- ☐ Completely reviewed the “***Home Security Guide***” and make the appropriate changes. (All aspects of the guide are important. If you have questions, please contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 931-2105.)
- ☐ Protect the valuables in your home by engraving them with your ***California Drivers License Number***. Also, record your serial numbers. (You can borrow an engraver from the Carlsbad Library.)
- ☐ Protect valuable jewelry by removing it from your home and placing it in a safe deposit box or store the jewelry in an unusual location inside your home.
- ☐ Make sure there are no valuables that can be seen through your windows.
- ☐ Do not hide a key outside your home. Instead, leave a key with a trusted neighbor. Tell at least two trusted neighbors that you will be on vacation, leaving them a number where you can be reached in an emergency.
- ☐ Arrange for a neighbor to pick up your mail and anything else that may be left outside your home. Be cautious when telling strangers about your vacation. If you choose to cancel your paper or hold your mail, do not tell them it is because you are going on vacation.
- ☐ Make your house appear as if someone is still at home. Have a neighbor mow your lawn or water your plants. Have them come at varying times so someone cannot predict their schedule.

- ☐ Put empty garbage cans inside your garage.
- ☐ Turn down your phone and answering machine so they cannot be heard.
- ☐ Pad lock your garage door from the inside.
- ☐ Leave your blinds in the “*normal*” position. Do not close them unless it is what you normally do.
- ☐ Put interior and exterior lights on timers to simulate activity. Put a radio on a timer to simulate noise.
- ☐ Consider having a trusted person house-sit while you are away.
- ☐ Conduct a last minute check of all your doors and windows , ensuring they are properly secured. A window or door left ajar is not a secured home.
- ☐ Pack a copy of the police department’s “*Important Phone Number List*” and give a copy to the neighbor looking after your home.
- ☐ Review the “*Neighborhood Watch Guide*” and consider participation. To remove and prevent crime in a neighborhood it takes all neighbors working as a team.
- ☐ Consider the security of vehicles being left behind by reviewing *the “Vehicle Security and Theft Prevention”* guide.

Home security awareness should be a daily habit and not just something you think about when we go on vacation. To best enhance your safety and security, incorporate these prevention tips into your daily life. Of course, some tips are specific to vacation issues but many are just good regular prevention advice.

For further crime prevention information or additional vacation suggestions, please contact the Crime Prevention Unit of the Carlsbad Police Department at 931-2105 and speak to J. Sasway the Crime Prevention Specialist.

This is a service of
Carlsbad Police Department’s
Crime Prevention Unit
in conjunction with the

Senior Volunteer Patrol